

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor	:	Yi-Min Wang	)	
Applicant	:	Microsoft Corporation	)	Examiner: Bharat Barot
Serial No.	:	09/641,553	)	
Filed	:	8/17/2000	)	Art Unit: 2155
For	:	Weak Leader Election	)	Confirmation No.: 6337
Customer No.:	:	22971	)	

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Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application and in accordance with the requirements of MPEP §713.04 and 37 CFR §1.133(b), Applicants hereby submit a Substance of Interview. The Substance of Interview is further submitted in response to the telephone interview of Monday, August 28, 2006, with the Applicants' undersigned representative.

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

The Interview Summary is contained in an electronic mail sent from the Applicants' representative to the Examiner, a copy of which is presented in its entirety herein below:

**From:** L. Alan Collins (LCA)  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2006 12:55 PM  
**To:** bharat.barot@uspto.gov  
**Cc:** L. Alan Collins (LCA)  
**Subject:** Application #09/641,553  
**Importance:** High

Dear Examiner Barot,

Thank you for your call today regarding the above-identified application. Applicants appreciate the opportunity to discuss claims 7 and 10 with respect to the Amendment in connection with an RCE filed in response to a Final Office Action mailed 6/8/2006.

In the discussion it was suggested that the term "performance" in the preamble of independent claim 7 may be somewhat unclear and that replacing the term "performance" with the phrase "leader election" may be preferable.

Further, in discussing claim 7, it was suggested that the term "age information" may not clearly distinguish over "a magnitude" as possibly disclosed in the art and that clarifying the age information as in claim 10 may provide a preferable distinction.

It was further discussed that amending claim 7 as suggested herein below, in addition to canceling claim 10, may render the claims of the application allowable. Should the Examiner find that the suggested amendments render the claims of the application allowable, an Examiner's Amendment consisting of the same would be favorably received by the Applicants.

Suggested amendments for claims 7 and 10 (all others remain un-amended):

Claim 7. In a distributed system including a plurality of redundant components, a method for ~~performance~~ leader election by a first redundant component, comprising:

multicasting age information, wherein the age information includes a duration of time on-line, particular to the first redundant component to all other

components in the plurality of redundant components, the age information relating to one or more criteria according to which a currently-active leader component is to be determined;

receiving age information from each other component in the plurality of redundant components particular to each component and relating to the one or more criteria according to which the currently-active leader component is to be determined; and

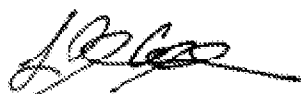
determining whether the first redundant component is the currently-active leader component by comparing the age information particular to the first redundant component with the age information received from each of the redundant components,

wherein if the first redundant component determines that it is not the currently-active leader component, the first component knows one of the components in the plurality of redundant components is the currently-active leader component.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

Applicants wish to again thank Examiner Barot for the opportunity to discuss the application and for the courtesy extended to Applicants' undersigned representative.

Sincerely,



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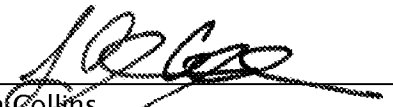
REMARKS

Applicants wish to, again, thank Examiner Barot for the courtesy and cooperation extended towards the Applicants' undersigned representative during the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Microsoft Corporation

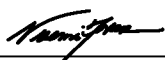
Date: August 29, 2006  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION  
(Under 37 CFR § 1.8(a)) or ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically deposited with the USPTO via EFS-Web on the date shown below:

August 29, 2006  
Date

  
Noemi Tovar